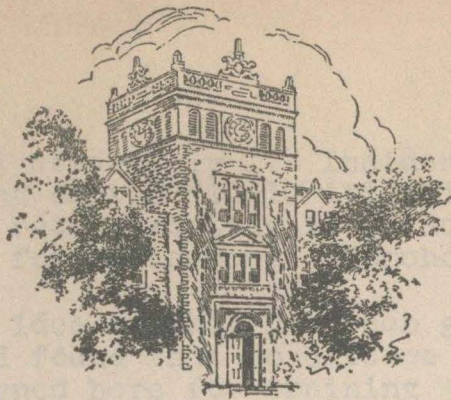


To the

FRONT

Number 60
May 3, 1945



from

MUHLENBERG

Greetings:

This letter is being written a day earlier than usual because when I promised to meet some Alumni in Philadelphia and Trenton on Friday and Saturday I completely forgot that this Friday is the day set aside for this little chat with you fellows in all parts of the world. We can't skip that or postpone it so we have cleared the desk to get down to letter writing a day earlier than usual.

And what a great day this is to write a letter! What a great day it must be for HERBIE DOWD, CLIFF TREXLER, FRANK BROWN, JOHNNY MILLER, and the rest of you fellows who have been fighting the war in Italy for such a long time. Yes, we got the news of the surrender of the Italian Fascists and the end of Mussolini; and just have heard that the Germans in Italy also have thrown in the sponge. Congratulations to those of you who forced them to do it. We have a hunch (the name isn't Benfer) that by the time we write our next letter we'll be throwing an extra treeful of orchids to you fellows in Germany because from the looks of things--and regardless of whether Hitler is really dead or alive--the rest of the Nazis will be cashing in their chips any minute--and there are a lot of Muhlenberg men who will have had a lot to do with that deal.

We don't usually like to talk about the weather--but this might interest you. The dogwood we told you about in the last letter is still blooming and some peonies in the President's garden are in full flower--but we're wearing topcoats even though it is the third day of May. It got cold just about ten days ago and it has stayed cold. As a matter of fact, the temperature has dropped to below freezing a few nights. Yesterday, up in a little corner of Lehigh County, there were snow flurries. Now if that isn't something for those of us who even took off our vests on St. Patrick's Day, I'll eat mine the next time.

On the campus everyone is still busy. We'll tell you just the minute things let up--but we hope that won't be for a long time to come. The Board of Trustees also got busy again last week and moved to refinance the college's bonded indebtedness at a considerable saving to the College. All the outstanding bonds are being called in on July 1 and a new issue is being floated at a lower interest rate. The saving will be substantial and will really count--particularly in these trying times.

While we're on that subject--thanks a million for your generous support of the Alumni Fund. We don't mean to post you fellows with the Fund notices, but we do like you to get all the mail that goes out of the Alumni Office and that's the reason you have been receiving the little red envelopes and the other printed material about the Fund. Don't feel we are dunning you men in service. HONESTLY, WE'RE NOT! But we're not turning anything down. To date 969 Muhlenberg have given \$6911 to the Fund that helps the College operate and carry on its program. The thing we think you'd like to hear particularly is that of the amount \$2,107.14 has come from 316 Muhlenberg men in uniform. That is why we are saying thanks a million particularly to you fellows. We are in high hopes that by the time the Fund closes on June 30 it will reach \$10,000. You can't hate us for hoping, can you?

Sorry, but the baseball team is still on the red side of the ledger. Since the last time I wrote to you, we have played two games: we lost to Ursinus 9 to 0 and to Penn State 15 to 4. The track team didn't hang up any records at the Penn Relays--but they didn't come in last, either. Fifth and sixth places were the best they could garner. This weekend they take part in the Middle Atlantic States Collegiate meets at Swarthmore. That's the dope on the sports picture. Still no news on a coach for next fall and, as we suggested before, that problem

won't be considered until after July 1. Incidentally, Gurney Afflerbach was elected president of the Middle Atlantic Collegiate Track and Field Association at its recent meeting in Philadelphia. That's another honor for him--and for Muhlenberg. Somehow or other, we do win.

Just to give you an idea of what has been going on around here, we did a bit of checking and found that to date we have trained 901 Blue-jackets and Marines assigned here for training as prospective officer candidates under the Navy V-12 program. Of that number, 456 Bluejackets and 237 Marines have completed their work on this campus and have moved on for further training and assignment. At the moment we have 208 Blue-jackets on board and we'll be getting more when the next term begins on July 1. The men who have completed their work at Muhlenberg were on the campus for from one to four terms each. Of those who left, 105 went directly to Midshipmen's schools, 82 to Pre-Midshipmen's schools, 168 into training as Marine Corps officers, 45 to other V-12 units, 25 to professional schools, 106 to air bases, 32 to special schools, and 116 into basic training units. A dozen were discharged for physical or other reasons. But that's enough on the military statistics side.

On the civilian front, Haps had a dandy looking group of prospective freshmen here last weekend for the competitive scholarship examinations. Forty-one men from nearly as many high schools--the largest group for a year or two and one of the most promising--took the examinations. We're looking for a good group to enter the freshmen class on July 1 and we hope some of you fellows and your friends will be back at the same time.

Once again we'll have to report that it was necessary to add another Gold Star to the service flag. SERGEANT CARL CLAYTON '34 among the first Muhlenberg men to go to war, was killed on February 11 in a plane crash in Southern England. He was just beginning a furlough from his post in Italy and was on his way to visit his wife, a technical sergeant with the WACS, stationed in England. He is the 19th Muhlenberg man known to have died in uniform.

Out on Guam the boys are thinking of forming a Muhlenberg Alumni club. In the move are Navy LT. CHARLES GARRETTSON '37, Marine LT. ARTHUR HILL '43, LT.(jg) PAUL CANDALINO '43, PFC. CHARLES BURRELL '43, LT. JOHN ELLIOTT '43, and a few others who drop in from time to time. Dean Horn's daughter, Harriet, a Red Cross club worker, also is on duty out there and for some of their meetings--just some--they may invite her.

But the mail is fairly heavy and it's about time to dig into it.

The German town in which CPL. KENNY MILLER '47 is stationed is even smaller than Fleetwood, he writes, and the people seem very friendly. His letter was written on Easter Sunday and some of the comments had to do with the Easter outfits of the women. PFC. HENRY LOGAN '31 reports that his unit had ideal weather for crossing the Rhine. He's kept busy with prisoners of war (we can imagine they keep a lot of American troops busy) and liberated slave laborers. The Alumni letters, CPL. BILL OSWALT '47 writes, are following him right into Hitlerland which he describes as a "land of white flags of surrender and bewildered krauts." He assures us that the American forces really made mince meat of the supermen. PFC. BUD BUTTERWICK'S '46 bi-weekly report is to the effect that he is still busy at his aid station in Germany. The Alumni letter of a few days ago reached CHAPLAIN ERNEST W. MOYER '15 somewhere in Germany.

For his courage, coolness, and skill while participating in bombing attacks on military and industrial targets in Germany, SGT. FRED JOHNSON '44 has been awarded an oak leaf cluster to wear with his Air Medal. LT. E.R. BARTLESON '37 has seen a good bit of Europe from his half-track and hopes his next tour will be from a comfortable roadster. Bart was in firing position in Germany when he wrote to us on April 14 and was expecting to be fraternizing with the Russians in Berlin before too many days passed by. LT. JACK BADER '40 has a new job in a Labor Supply Center in the European theatre. Just before he wrote to us he had met CLIFFORD KLINK '39 (we believe he's overseas on a government

mission as a civilian) and heard that LT. GORDON WILLIAMS '39 was in Paris. Bader would like a note from Williams to straighten him out on what the Navy is doing in the city of beautiful women, etc.

Inspired by his first bath in three weeks, CAPT. HAMILTON CROWELL '28 wrote us another of his informative letters, filled with poetry he copied from the walls of some rather private places. The Colmar campaign gave him some trying weeks, but in blinding blizzards and mud he saw the worst destruction since Normandy. During the action he learned what it felt like to sleep aside of a horse. PFC. RALPH BAGGER '45 has been living in the same place in France for the past six months and occupies a corner of the largest and fanciest mansion in the city. He hasn't fired his carbine since his days on the range at Ft. Custer. M/SGT. EMERSON SNYDER '38 crashed through to tell us that he's rounding out 29 months overseas and is making a big circle of France. England, Africa, Corsica, and Italy were some of the way stations. Living in Holland, PFC. WALTER CONRAD '30 has observed that everyone who has graduated from high school can read, write, and speak two languages in addition to Dutch. He has found many who speak English and has learned about Holland from them.

Letters are still coming in from England. T/SGT. SIDNEY SUPOWITS '29 writes that the fog and the grog are punk and that the good old USA will meet with his approval any day of the week. He's on duty in a large hospital where he has definitely seen proof that war is what Sherman said it is. T/SGT. JOE PODANY '42 has been in England so long he's beginning to feel like a native. The basketball team with which he plays won the United Kingdom Championship and, when he wrote, was getting ready for the ETO playoffs. Incidentally, Joe hasn't found anything in England to begin competing with that gal he left here in Allentown. He's in a hurry to get back to complete the unfinished business.

SGT. EDWARD BRIGGS '43 reports that up in Newfoundland everything is coming along in grand style. He expects to see the States again before too many months roll by.

From the Italian theatre comes word that PFC. GEORGE SAND '41 (legally changed from Santovetz) is keeping busy--or he was until the Nazis and Fascists throw in the towel. CHAPLAIN FRANK BROWN '19 tells of the Easter services in Italy where 4,000 military personnel attended a Protestant Easter Sunrise service and where later 450 took communion. There were just a few Easter bonnets and he didn't see an Easter egg. Two letters have come through from Africa--one from ENSIGN EDWARD PHILLIPS '45, who ran into Donnie Beattie '43 and COMMANDER JAMES MILLER '24, still busy at bases over there. LT. JOHN MAXWELL '44 also is in Africa with the Air Transport Command.

Mail has finally come through from Okinawa--letters from LT. ARLAN BUBECK '44 and PFC. LARRY HAYDEN '46. Bubeck says that LTS. CHARLES DUNNING and THOMAS CANDRICK, who trained with the Marines at Muhlberg, were among those who landed with him on D-Day. Both he and Hayden describe the island as one of the nicest they have hit to date--with hills and trees that remind them of Pennsylvania and with a climate that corresponds to Southern California.

LT. PETE GORGONE '43 reports that he was plenty busy on Iwo Jima when he went in on the first assault wave and that he had a few mighty close shaves (remember his beard). He lost more than half of his men and a couple of Japs had Pete pinned down for about an hour. You can leave it to Pete to get out of holes like that. Well, he did it again and some Japs are mighty sorry they tangled with him. In his 33 days on Iwo he lost about 35 pounds. LT. CARL PADOVANO '43 also was on Iwo and, according to Gorgone, did a swell job. LT. PAUL STOVER, another of the V-12 men, was a replacement in the Fifth Marines on Iwo and he reports that LTS. JOE NELSON, FRANK TOOMEY, and CHARLES BARGERSTOCK, fellow Muhlberg Marines, were in there too.

The boat from the Philippines brought greetings from SKD3/c BILL STULTS '43 who has been overseas since December 1943 and who landed on the Philippines several days before Thanksgiving 1944. He and ELLIS

JOHNSON '43 and JEFF FREDERICK '42 swap news from Muhlenberg and home. The same boat brought word that PVT. FRANCIS GENDALL '30 is still hitting in the whirlwind campaign in the Philippines. Even down there, he says, the black markets are taking the scalps of civilians and soldiers alike. After 56 days at sea, LT. BOB ROWLAND '41 landed in the Philippines and set up his dispensary in a bombed-out paint store in a big city. PFC. AL GREENBERG '33 is on the same island and may bump into some of the other boys out there.

From other areas of the Pacific the mail is also heavy. LT. BURTON GOOD '42, with a Fighter Squadron, got his Christmas gift early in April but found use for it even then. ENSIGN JIM HEMSTREET '44 finds life on an LCT in the Pacific very agreeable but says the scenery looks the same in the morning as it did when you went to bed the night before. Before he pulled anchor he met LT. NED KEITER '38 and ENSIGN H. MORTON SMITH '43 in an Officers' Club in Norfolk. PhM3/c MYRON KABO '42 lost five bucks on the Madison Square Garden game but had a good time out of it.

Navy Lt. SAM SHIMER '33 has been in the Pacific for nearly two years. He sent us a piece of the first issue of military currency used on Okinawa and that means he was close to that action, together with LT. SAM MILLER '27, who has written some graphic accounts of carrier action in the attacks on Iwo, Tokyo, and Okinawa. Sl/c MEL ROTNER is also on a carrier in the Pacific. On board with him is BILL SCHMIDT, another V-12'er. T/5 BOB MUMMA '44 is serving in an Evacuation Hospital that has a New York APO address (we slipped there--that should have been in this letter a few paragraphs back).

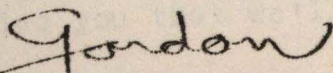
Other Pacific mail comes from LT.(jg) LESTER WOLFE '35 who was in on the first assaults on Leyte and Luzon and had several other operations in the Philippine campaign; from ENSIGN BILL DEISSLER '43, who had a bit of a reunion with LT.(jg) WIL CRESSMAN '42 on one of the Pacific islands; from Marine LT. JIM MAJOR '44, who saw CAPT. BOB ALBEE and who is looking forward to a reunion with PFC. BRUCE BAUMAN '42 out at Moser's; from ENSIGN ALLAN STEAD '44, who ends the mystery by telling us that the gal he persuaded is Ruth Matthews of Mackinaw, Ill. The big date was July 3, 1944.

Now for a few promotions: STAFF SERGEANT JOHN SYLVESTER '39; FIRST LIEUTENANT HUGH BROWN '42; ENSIGN VERNON C. WILSON '44; ENSIGN RICHARD S. LASHLEY '44; ENSIGN EDWARD C. GORETZKA '44; SECOND LIEUTENANT RICHARD D. MILLER '44; LIEUTENANT WILBUR M. LAUDENSLAGER '39; MASTER SERGEANT EMERSON SNYDER '38; SECOND LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER FIORE '44; SECOND LIEUTENANT CARL F. KNOWLES '44; CAPTAIN VASCO FENILI '4p SERGEANT HARRY KECK '29; CORPORAL ROBERT SEIDEL '41; LIEUTENANT (jg) BLAIR KRIMMEL '43; SECOND LIEUTENANT CLEMENT DOUMONT '44; CORPORAL SOL RESNIK '44; LIEUTENANT PAUL M. STONEBACK '33; LIEUTENANT (jg) ROBERT LORISH '41; LIEUTENANT GEORGE H. ABEL '44.

Here's some more mail: from the Burma-India theatre comes word from SGT. HAROLD W. HELFRICH '44, from LT. PARIS DeSANTIS '40, whose outfit is guarding the Burma Road, and from CAPT. RUSSELL DERR '36, who sent us a practically complete set of currency from India. This week we had the first report from S/SGT. JOHN SYLVESTER '39 who was inducted in November 1941, served in Alaska, the Aleutians, Australia, New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies. Then he went to the Philippines as a combat photographer and now is serving at a base, apparently in the Philippines.

And now we're off to the races. Two more weeks should bring more great news for you and for us--and perhaps after that at least some of you will begin coming home at least for a little while. When any of you do hit here, remember we like to see you at Muhlenberg. Best of luck--and here's to Victory on every front--SOON.

Sincerely,



Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office